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the Gang

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Water...Earth...Fire...Air...

Power was once balanced among the four great nations. Then the Fire Nation attacked, plunging the world into a war that has lasted 100 years. The Avatar, master of all four elements, has been missing throughout this time of need. Now the Avatar has returned—in the form of a 12-year-old Airbender named Aang. With the aid of his friends, Aang must accept his destiny and find a way to save the world.

降世神通 AVATAR THE LAST AIRBENDER

Yes, these are the heroes on which a world depends. Don't worry—they've got everything under control!



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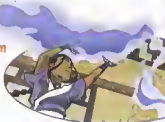
Check out
"Secret of the Fire Nation" on September 15
at 8 PM ET. Check local listings or nick.com for details.

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Produced by the Nickelodeon Magazine Group.

Editor: Andrew Branan Associate Editor: Dave Roman Art Director: Tim Jones Editorial Director: Laura Galen Contributing Editor: Rachel Rawdel Comic Contributor: Chris Duffy Managing Editor: Vanessa Johnson Managing Editorial Intern: Kristin Male Designer: Paul Tatro Copy Editor: Yaffi Lewin Researcher: Steven Stam Photo Researcher: Joe Hart Assistant Editor: Aubrey Gayle Francis Editorial Interns: Taylor Katz, Maana Wu, and Zara Zuckerman Production Director: Lori Crook Production Managers: Christine Lind and Marie Mack Production Coordinators: Jan Ali and Nelsie Cassle Design Director: Tina Strassburg VP, Consumer Marketing: Anne Logothetis Renewals and Billing Manager: Edelyn Solisio Fulfillment and Distribution Director: Alyssa Sherman Circulation Manager: Pamela Schacter Circulation Coordinator: Jesse Pinnage Operations and Planning Director: Rolando Reyes Executive Assistant: Lara Torres VP, Publisher: Phyllis Sparrow Associate Publisher: Norren Rafferty SVP: Dan Sullivan, President, Nickelodeon: Cyma Zarghami



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NICK MAG PRESENTS



NATION EXPLORATION

In *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, the world is divided among four nations: Air, Water, Earth, and Fire. Our nation-by-nation tour will introduce you to the show's characters. Also check out the map on page 24.

by Frank Pittarese



Air

Air is the element of freedom. The Air Nomads detached themselves from worldly concerns and found peace and harmony.

"If you want to be a bender, you have to let go of fear."

Our Star Avatar

AANG

Cocooned in an iceberg for 100 years, Aang is the last Airbender and the last hope for a war-torn world. The 12-year-old Avatar is on a journey to master all four elements in order to defeat Fire Lord Ozai. Fun-loving Aang is a vegetarian, believes in nonviolence, can play the flute, and has a crush on Katara.



Yip, Yip, and Away

APPA

The only remaining flying bison, Appa is Aang's animal guide and means of transportation. The enormous beast weighs 10 tons and has five stomachs. Appa responds to the phrase "Yip, yip!" and can be summoned with a bison whistle (unless he's napping).



Favorite Teacher

MONK GYATSO

When Aang trained at the Southern Air Temple 100 years ago, Gyatso was his mentor, friend, and father figure. This great Airbender was killed when the Fire Nation attacked the temple.



A Wing Thing

MOMO

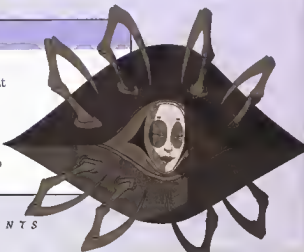
Discovered at the Southern Air Temple, Momo is the last winged lemur. Intelligent and mischievous, Momo isn't much of a fighter—he'd rather eat bugs and steal Sokka's food.



Supernatural Sightings

THE SPIRIT WORLD

As the Avatar, Aang is the bridge between the mortal and spirit worlds. Some of the denizens of this mystical plane include: Avatar Roku, a benevolent Firebender who was the Avatar's previous incarnation; Hei-Bei, the Spirit of the Forest, who transforms from a panda into a monster when angered; and Koh the Face-Stealer (right), a creepy millipede-like spirit who will literally steal your face if you show any emotion.





Water

Water is the element of change. The people of the Water Tribe are capable of adapting to many things.



"I will not back off!"



"I'm just a guy with a boomerang."

Liquid Asset

KATARA

Katara was a novice Waterbender in the Southern Water Tribe when she and her brother, Sokka, freed Aang from his iceberg. The 14-year-old is kind, brave, and passionate. Her skills have flourished to such a degree that she is now Aang's Waterbending Master. She has also learned to use her bending to heal. A fortune-teller predicted that Katara's true love is a very powerful bender. Will it be the Avatar, or will fate lead her in another, more *fiery* direction?

Lunar Love

PRINCESS YUE

The daughter of the Northern Tribe chief, Princess Yue was born gravely ill. Her father placed her in a pond where the moon and ocean spirits resided, and her health was restored. Yue later repaid that gift by sacrificing her mortal life to become

the new moon spirit.

Sokka had fallen for the princess, and her noble act left him brokenhearted.



The Whiny Warrior

SOKKA

Katara's 15-year-old brother is brash and goofy, yet also inventive and a good strategist. Despite not being a bender, Sokka proudly considers himself the leader of the group because he's "the oldest and a warrior." He can toss a sarcastic comment and a boomerang with equal skill. Sokka's favorite pastimes include eating and complaining.

Featured Creatures

UNAGI

A gigantic sea serpent living off the coast of Kyoshi Island. This ferocious monster sports dozens of sharp teeth and can exhale water with incredible force. "Don't try to ride the Unagi," says Aang. "It's not fun."

KOALAOOTTERS

Found at the North Pole, the koalaootters are, like many animals in *Avatar*, a combination of two familiar animals. They're also pretty darn cute.



CONTINUED

more **NATION** EXPLORATION



Earth

Earth is the element of substance. The people of the Earth Kingdom are diverse and strong, persistent and enduring.

Mountain Mover

TOPH

The headstrong and combative Toph (pronounced *tahf*) doesn't like to be underestimated. Blind since birth, she can "see" with her feet by sensing the vibrations of anything that's touching the ground. She secretly fought in underground Earthbending tournaments as "The Blind Bandit." After meeting the Avatar, Toph ran away from home to be free from her overprotective father and to become Aang's Earthbending Master. Though she can be a bit arrogant and selfish, Toph is coming to learn the value of teamwork and friendship.



Old Friend

KING BUMI

A powerful Earthbender and childhood friend of Aang. He ruled the Earth Kingdom city Omashu. Bumi may look feeble and act a bit silly—but he's much stronger and wiser than he appears. For his own reasons, he chooses to remain a prisoner of the Fire Nation in Omashu.



Sokka Socker

SUKI

The leader of an all-girl troupe of warriors who protect their home, Kyoshi Island. The warriors wear traditional makeup and carry fans. But don't be fooled by these "dainty" accessories—the fans are sharp-edged and can deflect flame! Suki bested Sokka in combat, trained him, and made him blush with a kiss on the cheek.



Teen Trouble

JET

The leader of a group of children orphaned by the Fire Nation. These "freedom fighters" live in an elaborate tree house hideout at the top of the forest. Jet is cocky, vengeful, and manipulative. While Katara was taken in by the bad boy's charms, Aang ended up fighting Jet in order to save innocent lives.



Underground Rockers

BADGERMOLES

These giant moles were the first Earthbenders. While they appear slow and dull-witted, they will fiercely protect their territory. Badgermoles are soothed by the sound of music.





Fire

Fire is the element of power. The people of the Fire Nation have desire, an *i* will, and the energy and drive to achieve what they want.

"You rise with the moon, I rise with the sun!"



Hot-Blooded

PRINCE ZUKO

Banished from the Fire Nation by his father, Zuko travels the world with his Uncle Iroh. He is on a quest to capture the Avatar, believing that will restore his honor. Though often reckless, he is a fiercely skilled Firebender and a master swordsman. Zuko may be filled with rage, but, unlike his father or sister, he shows glimpses of humility and humanity. However, as long as the Avatar remains at large, Zuko will never know peace.

FIRE LORD OZAI

Father of Prince Zuko and Princess Azula, and current ruler of the Fire Nation, Ozai took the crown under very suspicious circumstances. The shadow-cloaked leader eagerly awaits the coming of Sozin's Comet, which will enhance Firebender abilities to a frightening degree. While Ozai views Zuko as a complete failure, Azula is his pride, sharing her father's disposition toward cruelty and violence.



All-Terrain Animals

KOMODO RHINOS

These tough-skinned and temperamental creatures serve the Fire Nation as mounts for the cavalry and as beasts of burden. The Rough Rhinos, an elite group of five soldiers, took their nickname from the powerful animals.



The Jolly General

UNCLE IROH

A retired general and great hero of the Fire Nation. He was once destined to rule as Fire Lord, but the treacherous Ozai took the crown for himself. Iroh is now Zuko's companion and mentor. Branded a traitor to the Fire Nation, he lives as a fugitive, but he can always find time to enjoy a good cup of tea or a nice massage.



All-Terrain

PRINCESS AZULA

Named after her grandfather, Fire Lord Azulon, Zuko's sister is a ruthless, cold-blooded perfectionist. She was appointed by Fire Lord Ozai to capture Zuko and Iroh for their "crimes" against the Fire Nation and has since added the Avatar to her hit list. Azula is an extremely powerful Firebender, able to control the forces of lightning. She cannot, however, control her temper.



In Their Elements

The creators of *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, Bryan Konietzko (far right) and Mike DiMartino (near right), met in 1995 in art school in Rhode Island. Since then, they have worked together on many shows, including *King of the Hill* and *Family Guy*. Bryan was also the art director for *Invader Zim*. They chatted with us about *Avatar*.



NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: You are both in charge, but who does what?

BRYAN KONIETZKO: I spend most of my day doing art direction—working with color; background painting, background design, character design, and prop design. Mike spends most of his day with our writing staff.

Where did you get the idea for using the four elements in the show?

BRYAN: I took a sketch of mine—a middle-aged balding guy with an arrow on his head—and made him a kid character. Then I did a drawing in which he was herding bison through the sky. At the time, Mike was really into a documentary about explorers who were trapped at the South Pole. It sort of came

together. We thought, *There's an air guy along with these water people trapped in a snowy wasteland...and maybe some fire people are pressing down on them...*

How is the show different from the way you first imagined it?

BRYAN: Originally, Aang was going to be trapped in the iceberg for one thousand years, not one hundred. He was from a time when technology was much more developed than when he woke up. Momo was actually a little robot monkey. But we wanted a more ancient feeling, so we did away with a lot of the technology.

MIKE DIMARTINO: We also had a whole pack of flying bison. First there were a dozen bison, then three, and then it got cut down to just Appa.

Myth Conceptions

Bryan and Mike shared some of the influences and inspirations behind *Avatar*.

ANIME

"The best anime [Japanese animation] balances great action sequences with humor and emotion, something we try to do on *Avatar*. We love all the films of Hayao Miyazaki, especially *Spirited Away* (below) and *Princess Mononoke* (right). Both movies deal with spirituality and the environment in an entertaining way. Also, there's a lot of great animation."



ASIAN FILM

"Asian cinema is really good at action comedy. *Shaolin Soccer* is one of our favorite movies. It has tons of fantastic action and lots of funny moments. Some of the effects provided inspiration for how the bending moves might look on the show."



Have the characters changed much since you first came up with them?

MIKE: They've definitely developed a lot. We originally had a different idea for Sokka's personality: He was going to be much more low-key. But Jack De Sena [the voice of Sokka and a cast member on *All That*] brought a great liveliness to the role, so we started writing toward that strength.

Do either of you practice martial arts?

BRYAN: I do. When we came up with the show idea, one of the first things I did was drive all over town and try out a bunch of martial arts schools. That's how I met Sifu Kisu, and I've trained with him ever since. [See "How *Avatar* Gets Its Kicks" on page 42.]

What bending skill from the show would you like to have?

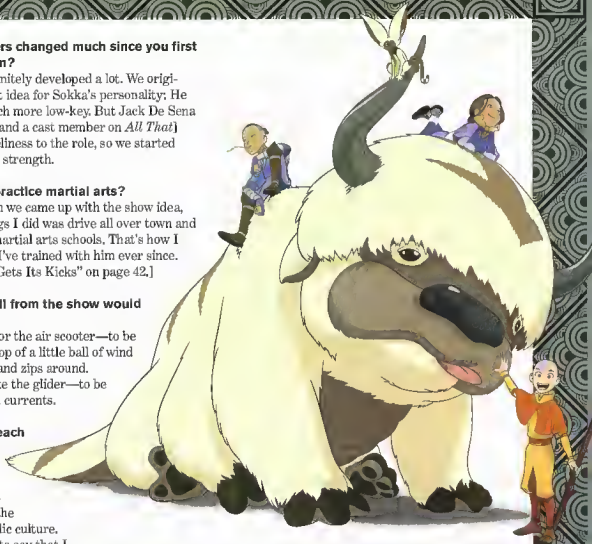
MIKE: I would go for the air scooter—to be able to balance on top of a little ball of wind that acts like a top and zips around.

BRYAN: I would like the glider—to be able to control wind currents.

Which nation do each of you identify with most?

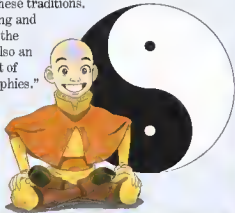
MIKE: I'd be with the Airbenders just because they have the peaceful and nomadic culture.

BRYAN: I'm sorry to say that I would probably be with the Fire Nation. ☐



EASTERN PHILOSOPHY

"Buddhism and Taoism have been huge inspirations for the ideas behind *Avatar*. Many of Aang's beliefs, such as living in harmony with the planet and not eating meat, were inspired by these traditions. Understanding and appreciating the elements is also an essential part of these philosophies."



TRAVEL

"We had the opportunity to visit China last year and got to see a lot of amazing locations, such as the Great Wall, the Lama Temple, and the Forbidden City. We took a lot of pictures that we use as reference for the backgrounds in *Avatar*."



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SOKKA THE AVATAR

THIS PLACE SEEMS LIKE THE PERFECT PLACE TO RELAX FOR A WHILE.

AH, FINALLY...I'M SICK OF FLYING. NO OFFENSE, APPA, BUT I'M A 'SOLID GROUND' TYPE OF GIRL.

EW, ANIMAL PELTS!

GUYS, WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T STAY HERE TOO LONG... REMEMBER, THE FIRE NATION IS STILL AFTER US.

STORY: JOSHUA NAMILTON • ART: JUSTIN RIDGE • COLOR: SNO CONE STUDIOS • LETTERS: COMICRAFT

SNIFF, SNIFF ARE THOSE DEEP-FRIED PICKLED RADISHES I SMELL? MAYBE WE CAN STAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE...

HEY, SOKKA. WHAT DO YOU THINK? NOW WE BOTH HAVE PONYTAILS.

THAT LOOKS FABULOUS ON YOU!

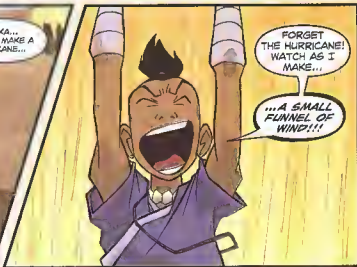
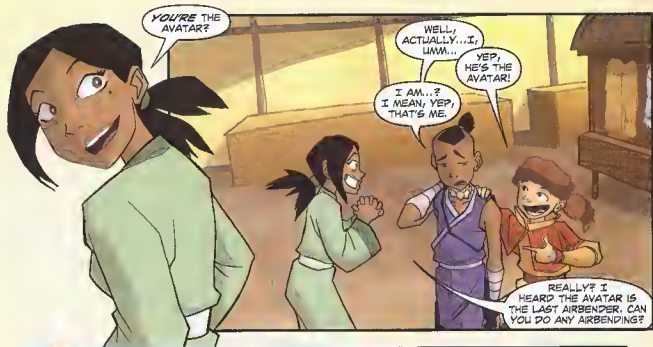
REALLY? YOU THINK THIS LOOKS FABULOUS ON ME?

UHM...OF COURSE! DEAD ANIMAL SKIN REALLY BRINGS OUT YOUR EYES.

THAT'S FAKE ANIMAL SKIN! I'M A STRICT VEGETARIAN AND I LOVE ANIMALS.

HEY! ME, TOO!







MEANWHILE... A FEW MILES AWAY,
THE ROUGH RHINOS CONSPIRE...

THE AVATAR HAS
BEEN SPOTTED
HEADING TOWARD
A TOWN NOT FAR
FROM HERE

GOOD,
WE'LL HAVE
HIM IN NO
TIME.

OOOH!
I LOVE
TOWNS!

BACK IN TOWN...

MOM AND
DAD, THIS IS
MY BOYFRIEND,
SOKKA--HE'S THE
AVATAR!

YOUR
BOYFRIEND'S THE
AVATAR?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE
THE AVATAR'S ACTUALLY
IN MY HOUSE! AND I DIDN'T
EVEN CLEAN

WHO'S THE
KID WITH THE
WEIRD HAT?

OH, THIS
LITTLE GUY?
HE'S, UM, MY...
SERVANT

SERVANT...?





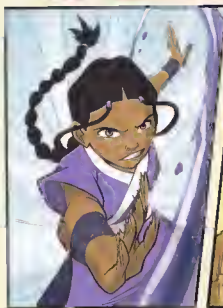


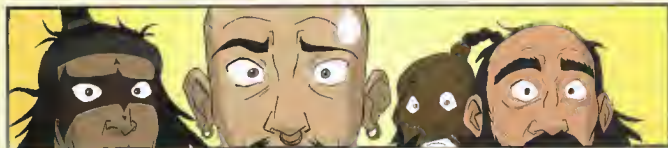












BOOM!





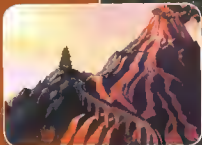
THE END

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO BA SING SE?

Before you hop on a flying bison to travel across the Four Nations, you should know where you're going. Use this map as your guide.

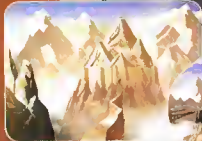
Avatar Roku's Temple

Located on a crescent-shaped volcanic island at the edge of Fire Nation waters. This is where Aang first communicated with Roku's spirit. To help Aang escape the clutches of the Fire Nation, Roku had to destroy the temple.



Omashu

An Earth Kingdom city named for Oma and Shu, two lovers from warring villages who became the first Earthbenders. The city was ruled by Aang's old friend, King Bumi, but it is now under Fire Nation control and has been renamed New Ozai.



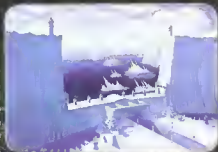
Southern Air Temple

Aang's boyhood home. Located high in a mountain range, it was once filled with Airbending monks, flying bison, and winged lemurs. It's now deserted—a reminder of the Fire Nation's extermination of the Air Nomads.







Northern Water Tribe

Thanks to its natural defenses, this beautiful ice city has managed to survive 100 years of war. With the aid of Aang and friends, the tribe recently fended off a fierce siege by the Fire Nation.



KEY

-  Water Tribes
-  Earth Kingdom
-  Fire Nation
-  Air Nomads

Western Air Temple



Southern Water Tribe

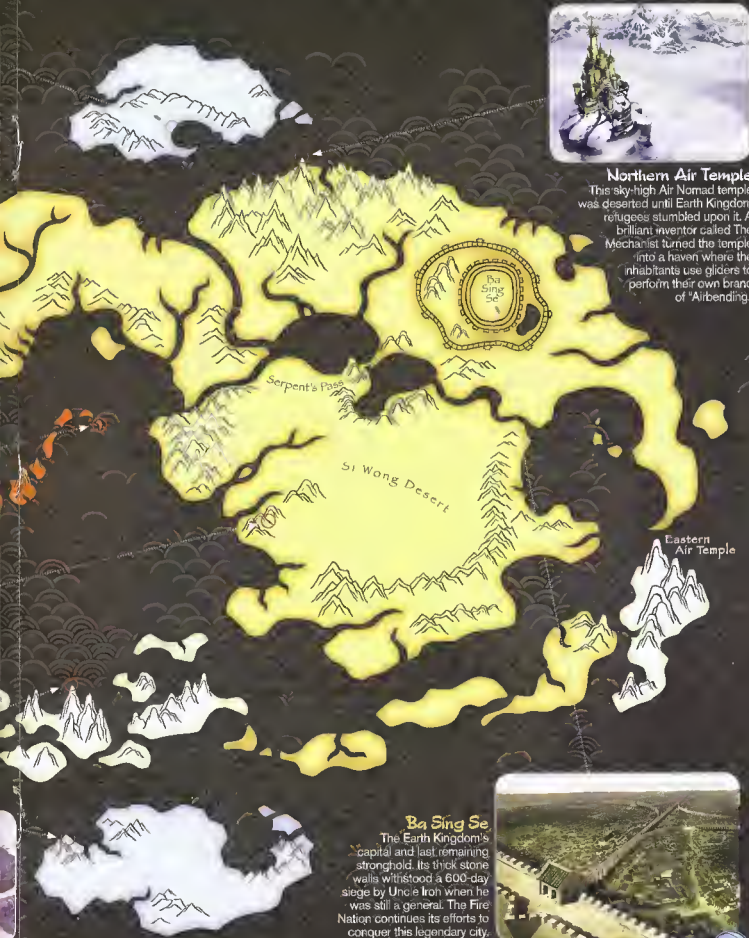
Sokka and Katara's home. It is where they discovered Aang and freed him from his iceberg. The Southern Tribe's city has been devastated by Fire Nation raids.





Northern Air Temple

This sky-high Air Nomad temple was deserted until Earth Kingdom refugees stumbled upon it. A brilliant inventor called The Mechanist turned the temple into a haven where the inhabitants use gliders to perform their own brand of "Airbending."



Eastern Air Temple

Ba Sing Se

The Earth Kingdom's capital and last remaining stronghold. Its thick stone walls withstood a 600-day siege by Uncle Iroh when he was still a general. The Fire Nation continues its efforts to conquer this legendary city.



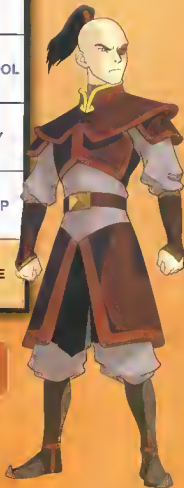
MAKING CONNECTIONS

Think Katara and Zuko will end up together? Prove it by solving this word maze. Get from **WATER** to **FIRE** by moving from square to square, but only when the combination of the word you're moving *from* and the word you're moving to creates a common word or phrase. For example, from **WATER** you can go to either **FALL** (to form *waterfall*) or **BED** (to form *water bed*). You can move horizontally and vertically, forward and backward, but not diagonally.

Solution on page 48.



WATER	FALL	BACK	SEAT	BELT	BUCKLE
BED	BUG	GROUND	HOG	WASH	UP
OVER	GAME	BALL	KNEE	HIGH	SCHOOL
TIME	BOY	SCOUT	HAND	SOME	DAY
OUT	SIDE	SHOW	OFF	HAIR	CAMP
DOOR	KNOB	SWEET	TOOTH	BRUSH	FIRE



Remember: When you try to create a new word or phrase, always read the square you're on *first* and the square you're moving to *second*—no matter what direction you're moving in. Good luck on your journey!

Roku Sudoku

Welcome. I am Roku, the previous Incarnation of the Avatar. I have confidence that Aang can master the four elements—just as I believe you can solve these four sudoku puzzles. Notice that they use letters instead of numbers. When you complete each grid, the diagonal line starting in the upper-left corner will spell out a six-letter word that completes the clue. Do not fear—I know you can rise to any challenge!

Answers on page 48.



RULES

Fill in the grid so that each row, column, and 2 x 3 box contains the six given letters.

A K R S T V				R	A	V
			V	S		
	A		T			R
		V		T		K
		K	R			

_____ was Master Pakku's first female student.

A H M O S U			U	H		M
	A			U		
	S					
			M			A
			O			S
	H	A				

After being conquered by the Fire Nation, _____ was renamed New Ozai.

A D G N O R						
		R	O			D
	G			O	N	
		N				A
	N	A				
		O		D		

Uncle Iroh's nickname is The _____ of the West.

A G O S T Y					A	
	A			S	G	T
	T	O				S
		G	Y		O	
				Y		G
		S		A		

Aang was trained by the great Airbender Monk _____.

What Kind of Bender Are *You?* →



Think you might have what it takes to master an element? Circle the icons next to all the statements that apply to you. Then check the scoring key to learn if you're a bender or a pretender.

by Frank Pittarese



When people ask "Hot enough for you?" you raise the temperature 10 more degrees.



Sometimes your head is in the clouds—along with the rest of your body.



When you shout "Let's rock the house!" everyone runs away screaming.



Your personality can sometimes be described as "lighty."



You eat toast every morning—and you don't have a toaster.



Everyone around you wears a life jacket.



You pointed at Mount Rushmore and added your own face to the lineup.



When you play freeze tag, you actually freeze the other players.



When people call you a hottie, they're not talking about your looks.



You can make a mountain out of a molehill—literally.



When you play air guitar, you blow away the competition.



If people say you're all wet, you say "Thank you."



When your stomach rumbles, it registers 6.0 on the Richter scale.



You're furry and enjoy giving piggyback rides to your friends.



When you pass wind, you fly 100 feet into the sky.



You can fill the bathtub with water while sitting in the living room.



Your parents have installed a smoke detector—on your head.



YOUR RESULTS IF YOU CIRCLED:

MOSTLY :	MOSTLY :	MOSTLY :	MOSTLY :	ONLY :	NOTHING:
Spish-splash, you're a Waterbender.	Rock on... you're an Earthbender.	Hey, hot stuff, you're a Firebender.	Fly high... you're an Airbender.	You might be a tying bison. Just how furry are you?	Bending may not be your thing. How are you with a boomerang?
At least one each of , , , and : Don't tell Aang, but maybe you're the Avatar...					

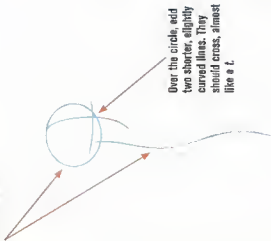
How to Draw Aang

Get a blank piece of paper and draw Aang, the heroic Avatar, by following these step-by-step instructions. Make sure you use a pencil with a good eraser because some steps require erasing.



1

Start with a circle connected to a long, slightly curved line—like a balloon on a string.

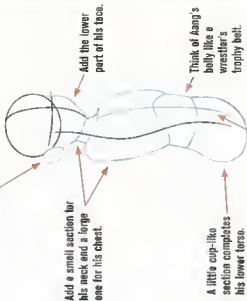


Over the circle, add two shorter, slightly curved lines. They should cross, almost like a t.

2

Add an egg-like oval to the lower-left side of the circle for Aang's ear.

Add a small section for his neck and a large one for his chest.



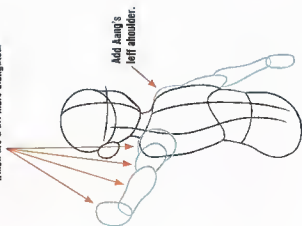
Think of Aang's belly like a wrestler's trophy belt.

A little cup-like section completes his lower torso.

A long vertical line down Aang's body will help keep track of his center.

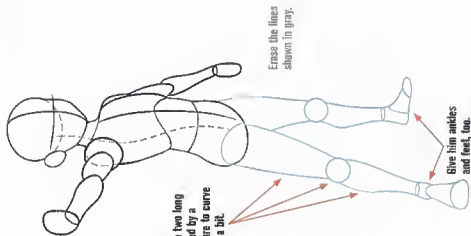
3

For Aang's arms and hands, draw a series of incomplete ovals. They're almost like jelly beans, except for his forearms, which are a bit more elongated.



4

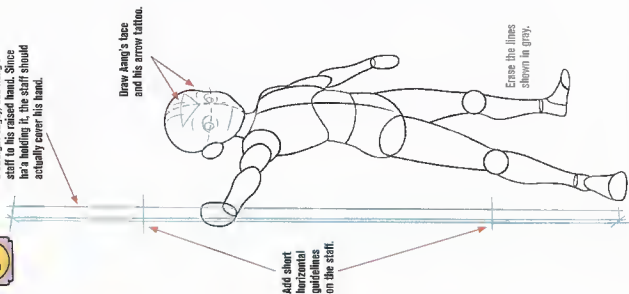
Aang's legs are two long tubes connected by a circle. Make sure to curve his calves just a bit.



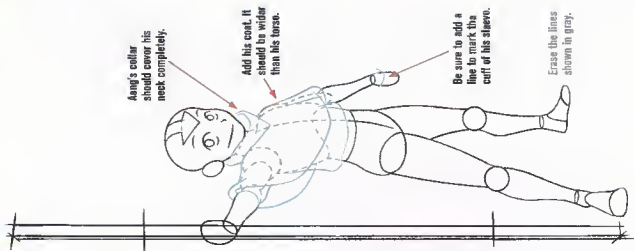
Erase the lines shown in gray.

5

Using a ruler (or anything with a straight edge), add Aang's staff to his raised hand. Since he's holding it, the staff should actually cover his hand.



6



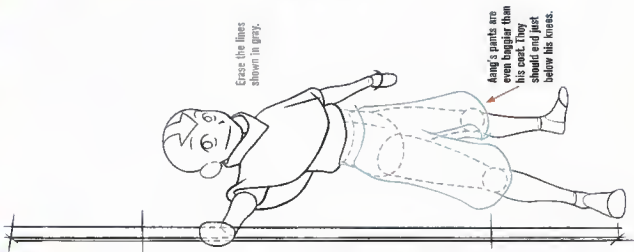
Ang's collar should cover his neck completely.

Add his coat. It should be wider than his torso.

Be sure to add a line to mark the cuff of his sleeve.

Erase the lines shown in gray.

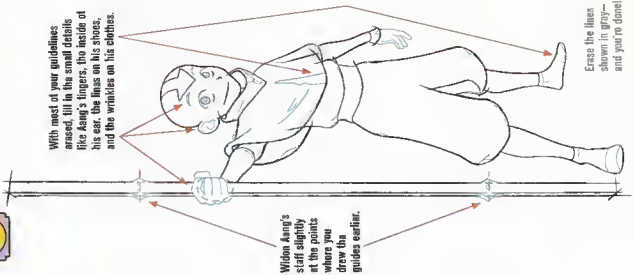
7



Erase the lines shown in gray.

Ang's pants are even bigger than his coat. They should end just below his knees.

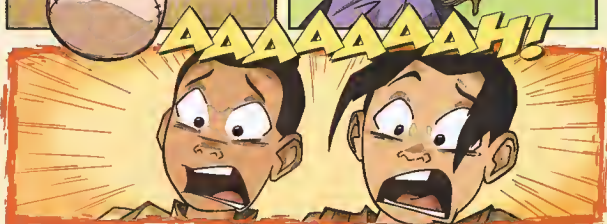
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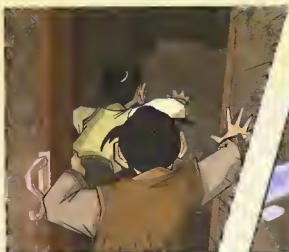


Widen Ang's staff slightly at the points where you drew the guides earlier.

Erase the lines shown in gray--and you're done!









THE END

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Sketchbook

Avatar cocreator Bryan Konietzko gave us a rare peek at some of the doodles and drawings in his sketchbook.

Momo A-Cio-Cio

"Momo is my favorite character to draw. I'm always curious what he is up to. A lot of his poses and body language come from the memories of my childhood cat, Buddy. Many people have told me that Momo reminds them of their cats, too."



The Dude Can Doodle

"I rarely have time in my schedule to just sit and draw, so whenever I'm in a production meeting, I'm usually doodling. Sometimes these doodles turn into character designs for the show."

A concept design for General Fong, who appeared in the first episode of season two.



Master Yu, Toph's former Earthbending teacher.



Xin Fu, bounty hunter and ringleader of the Earth Rumble.

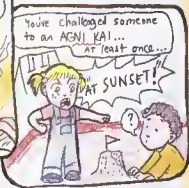
UNITED NATIONS: The Fans of AVATAR

Some viewers are content to just watch *Avatar* on TV, but others would rather LIVE it. Take a look at some fans who are bending over backward to celebrate the show.



Comically Speaking

Avatar's amazing artwork has inspired fans to make their own art. One megafan named Isaia created a comic about how being addicted to the show can change your life:



Cosplaying Is Better Than Watching

Short for costume play, cosplay is a huge craze in Japan and is spreading to the U.S. People team up to create costumes based on specific characters. Then they wear them to comic and anime conventions. Some enter masquerade contests, where they perform humorous skits—in character, of course.



"It can take anywhere from a week to months to make a costume. Sometimes it takes weeks just to find the right materials!"

—Tina Lam
(Princess Azula)

"It's fun to take on the characters' personalities and try to act as much like them as possible. It's a vacation from real life."

—Abby Avis (Toto)

Hot Link

Thanks to die-hard fans, new *Avatar* websites are constantly popping up on the Net. Two of the most all-encompassing sites are AvatarSpirit.Net and Distant Horizon (musogato.com/avatar/index2.html). AvatarSpirit.Net is a virtual encyclopedia with everything from character bios and creator interviews to episode transcripts, screen shots, and audio clips. Distant Horizon also contains tons of in-depth info, and it has popular forums for general discussion, fan fiction, and fan art.

"Maintaining the site is very time-consuming. I've spent many all-nighters working on updates. Let's just say my work is never done, but I give it my best shot!"

—Jade, webmaster of Distant Horizon

"I've really come to appreciate the importance of the whole crew that works on *Avatar*. It's amazing to see the effort and dedication required to make this world come to life."

—Chris Smith, founding member of AvatarSpirit.Net

Ship Shapers

Some fans have invented their own lingo to reference possible love connections. Are you a supporter of Katara and Aang's relationship? Then you're a member of the Kataang club. Think Katara and Zuko make a better couple? You're all about Zutara! Combining the characters' names is part of "shipping" (from relationship)—the phenomenon where fans champion established or potential pairings.



How Avatar Gets Its Kicks

Sifu Kisu, a kung fu and tai chi teacher, is *Avatar*'s martial arts consultant. He helps the animators create characters' moves based on centuries-old martial arts positions. Kisu showed us some moves from the show.



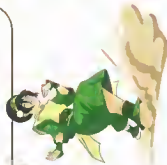
Air Nation

On the show, the people of the Air Nation (above) can defy the laws of gravity. Kisu told us that to figure out an Air Nation move, he and the animators asked, "How would a person fly?" "When Aang performs a move, he's like a helium balloon," Kisu demonstrates (above, left) how his arms would lift him into the air.



Earth Nation

Kisu describes the Earth people (above) as "tunnelers, miners, and burrowers. They can create cracks and fissures and raise objects up out of the earth. They are very formidable, strong people." This pose (left) reflects that strength.



Fire Nation

The Fire Nation's people (above) seem to have the quickest, sharpest moves. "The nature of fire is that it's aggressive," says Kisu. In this move (*right*), he has just landed in a crouching position after leaping into the air. "People of the Fire Nation can also shoot a flare of flame. I think the Fire guys are probably the coolest ones."



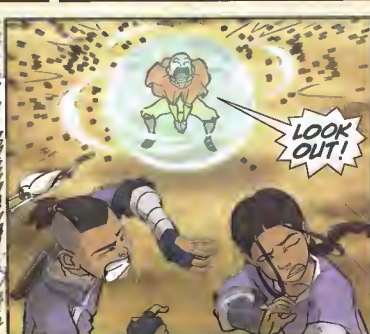
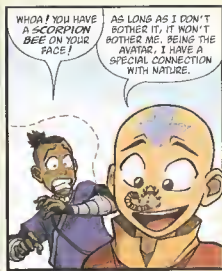
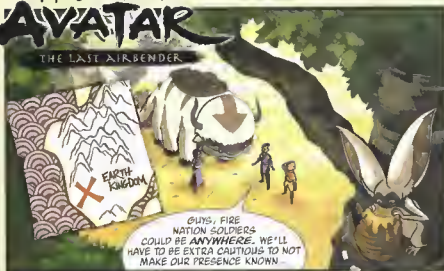
Water Nation

It's important for the Water-bending moves to feel fluid and smooth, explains Kisu. "In this pose (*far left*), the character starts out standing up and then lets gravity lower him. He moves his center up and down with these movements."



降世神通 AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDER



Story: Josh Hamilton and John O'Bryan. Art: Justin Ridge. Colors: Hye-Jang Kim. Lettering: Cam Roberts. Avatar: The Last Airbender created by Michael Dante D'Amico and Bryan Konietzko.



ANIME MANGATISM

マンガのパズル*

Japanese comics (manga) and animation (anime) are really popular, appearing in many U.S. comics and TV shows. Artist **Tavisca Wolfgarth-Simons** imagined what some American cartoons and comics might look like if they were manga-tized. Can you identify the characters in this typically black-and-white manga scene?



* manga puzzle (in Japanese)



Use this list if you need help. Answers on page 48.

Ariel, Bart Simpson, Bugs Bunny, Calvin, Charlie Brown, Cosmo, Dee Dee, Dexter, Dopey, Garfield, Goddard, Grampa and Julie, Hobbes, Jimmy Neutron, Jon Arbuckle, Jughead, Kim Possible, Lisa Simpson, Marvin the Martian, Scooby-Doo, Sebastian, Snoopy, Snow White, SpongeBob SquarePants, Timmy Turner, Velma, Wanda

Fire Nation's Most Wanted

For those Fire Nation soldiers or bounty hunters who don't read classical Chinese, here's a translation of the wanted poster that has appeared several times on *Avatar*.



拿神通
降在

該逃犯身懷截氣神功
能制起旋風飛遁如風
捕者慎之慎之
烈火君令

烈火國王
封賞

Wanted: The Avatar

The first two lines are horizontal and read from left to right. The four Chinese characters in the second line translate to "Avatar"—you can also spot them in the show's logo. (A more literal translation for "Avatar" would be: "the divine medium who has descended upon the mortal world.")

This fugitive knows Airbending, can create whirlwinds, and can flee like the wind. Hunters, be extremely cautious! By the decree of the Fire Lord.

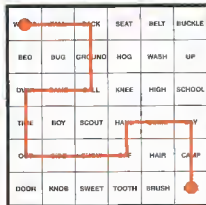
Unlike the first two lines, the rest of the poster is written in a more traditional Chinese style, where the characters are arranged in vertical columns that read from top to bottom. The columns should be read from right to left.

The official seal of Fire Lord Ozai

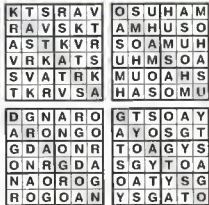
The seal serves as Ozai's signature and makes this an official document. In other words, the Fire Lord means business!

ANSWERS

Making Connections (page 26):



Roku Sudoku (page 27):



Anime Mania (pages 46-7): On top of the school (left to right): Snoopy (on doghouse), Marvin the Martian (with bag) in front of and on fence (left to right): Cohen on top of Hobbes, Grampa and Julie (in front of Hobbes), Lisa Simpson (with saxophone), Charlie Brown (lying like), Bart Simpson (on skateboard), Jenny Neutron (to the left of the giant Goddard robot), Jimmy's dog, Goddard (the giant robot), Dexter (with smoking test tube), Timmy Turner (wearing), Den Den (balancing on fence), Wanda and Cosmo (lying), Scooby-Doo, Velma, Snow White, Dopey, Kim Possible. **Around the pool:** Bugs Bunny (with carrot), Ariel and Sebastian (at top edge of the pool), Garfield and Jon Arbuckle (to the left of the pool), SpongeBob (floating).

CREDITS

PHOTOGRAPHY: Unless otherwise credited, all *Avatar: The Last Airbender* images courtesy Nickelodeon. 6-7: The Events Collection (Spotted Arrows); Princess Manonakel; Photolife (Shaolin Soccer); courtesy Michael Yamashiki; Nickelodeon (Dakota and Kataraki); courtesy Bryan Konietzko (Forbidden City). 40: Dave Roman (looseplay photos). 42-43: Claudia Spenneth (Kiss).

ILLUSTRATION: Cover: Bryan Konietzko. 28: Courtesy Nickelodeon (Aang); Wayne (all others). 29-31: Nickelodeon Creative Resources (Aang steps). "How to Draw Aang" based on steps created by Walter Foster, whose *How to Draw Avatar* book will be on sale in March 2007. 40: Kim Mirande aka kuaa (fan comic from her website issuu.deviantart.com).

OTHER CREDITS: Special thanks to Justin Charlebois, Aaron Eliaz, Christopher Grant, Andrew Huellner, Bryan Konietzko, Marcos Longoria, Hye-Jung Kim, Jenna Lutzel, and Ashley St. Souvere for all their help! 40: Thanks to all the cosplayers: Katherine Schwing (Aang in top photo), Whitney Brown (Kiyoko), Brooke Woolson (Juni, Laura Korvald), Kataraki, Ashley Lee (Kiyoko), Theresa Spazzale (Aang in bottom photo), Abigail Livinson (Sokka), Tina Lam (Ukaku), Nicole Caramella (Moi),

and Margan Datta (Ty Lee). 48: Chinese translation by KTCong and Dr. Siu-Lung Lee.

NICK MAG PRESENTS (ISSN 1545-7468) is published 4 times per year, quarterly, plus a holiday issue in December, by Nickelodeon Magazines, Inc., 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10016. Periodicals postage paid at NY, NY and at additional mailing offices. Copyright © 2003 Nickelodeon Magazines, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part, without permission is prohibited. Subscription rates: \$15.00 for 4 issues in the U.S. (plus \$2.00 shipping and handling); \$31.00 overseas.

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